

DAILY NEWS
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NATO Is Believed Riddled With Spies

By London Express Service

LONDON, Oct. 23 — Disaster appears to have overtaken NATO's intelligence service in Europe and one of the biggest investigations since the alliance was founded is now under way in every West European capital.

It follows this series of events,

In April top secret NATO documents were found in the possession of an espionage courier working for the Soviets in Italy.

Others working in the Italian Foreign Ministry were named. They in turn pass on information concerning agents in West Germany and hinted that a spy-ring was at work actually inside NATO headquarters in Brussels.

Five men it is said were to have been arrested. Then, two weeks ago, West Germany's Deputy

head of intelligence, Gen. Horst Wendtland shot himself in his Munich office. Next day it was announced that Admiral Hermann Lufdke who held a top-ranking NATO post, had also been found shot — on a boar hunt. It was first called an accident; he had tripped over his gun. But when police searched his flat they found microfilm relating to secret dispositions of NATO navies. Today German police admit that Lufdke's death was a suicide.

For security men worse was to come. For the suspect in the NATO headquarters suddenly appeared to be the financial controller of the organization, a man whose office handled, or had access to, every form of account, from a general's lunch expenses to payments to agents abroad.

When arresting officers moved in they found that the controller, Nahit Imre, had gone to Turkey. With a nice touch of protocol, he was first dismissed by Brussels on charges of "serious breaches of security" then arrested by the Turks and accused of spying for the Warsaw Pact countries.

Meanwhile, NATO is buzzing with rumors of more arrests to come, come at equally high levels. As one junior NATO officer in London told me: "It seems that any counter-action to the Czechoslovak invasion would have been known to the Russians almost as soon as we made the decisions. It seems you can't trust anyone. Even my boss has been screened again — and that must have taken a lot of courage."